

to answer Americans' call for aid. I want to commend Majority Leader REID and Chairman BYRD for their work in crafting this much needed bill. I would hope that before this Congress adjourns, we will have the opportunity to debate and pass this necessary measure.

RACIAL INTIMIDATION

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak about a recent act of hate and intimidation in my home State of Oregon.

On Tuesday morning, September 23, 2008, the custodial crew at George Fox University found a life-size cardboard cutout of Senator BARACK OBAMA hung by fishing wire from a tree on the campus. Attached to the cutout was a sign that read, "Act Six reject." George Fox is a Christian university of 1,800 undergraduate students in Newberg, OR. In an effort to expand diversity on campus, George Fox instituted a university scholarship program—Act Six—that provides full scholarships to students chosen for their leadership potential from Portland high schools. While not a requirement, many of the recipients are from a minority group.

Sadly, this crude and incendiary act of racial intimidation highlights our continued need to address the issue of civil rights in our country as racism still lurks in many dark corners of our Nation. Hate crimes and acts of racial intimidation seek to marginalize entire groups of Americans—and it simply cannot be tolerated in a democratic society.

The freedom and opportunities in the United States are the envy of the world. And while our Nation has made significant strides in protecting minority groups, the recent event at George Fox is a reminder that the civil rights struggle remains far from finished.

I praise the actions of George Fox President Robin Baker for acting quickly to unite the campus in expressing outrage to the act, and in urging students to show that the incident has no place in our society.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find

solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Instead of getting out the state crying towel and airing a lot of sob stories about how people are suffering from high energy prices, why does not Congress start a meaningful course toward reducing oil prices by doing the following:

1. Open some of the areas of known oil reserves that have been placed "off limits" by irrational environmentalists bent on destroying this nation's economy (it is working, by the way) and encourage drilling in such places as the ANWAR, the known oil and coal fields in southern Utah, drilling off the western coast of California (let the bastards look at the Sierra Nevadas for scenery if they do not believe they'll like what they see with national security pouring from offshore rigs);

2. Encourage and authorize the construction of more refineries and decentralize them so that natural disasters (like Katrina) will not do irreparable damage to the oil supply system of this nation;

3. Hasten the construction of new nuclear reactors, even breeder reactors, for the safe and clean production of electricity. There are plenty of open, remote areas in Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana and Oregon to place several high-capacity nuclear reactors which would offer a significant bolster to power production and release oil for gasoline and diesel production instead of powering filthy gas-guzzling electricity generation plants;

4. And lastly, but not least, trash the ill-conceived corn-fed ethanol generation plan. What makes sense about using 1.2 gallons of energy to produce a single gallon of ethanol? Which idiots in your no longer august institution bought into that lunacy?

ROBERT.

It seems the Senate and Congress have done nothing to help Americans when our way of life is being downgraded by high fuel, taxes, groceries and many other things. It seems the only thing they can pass is a pay raise for them, if their work performance was what a pay raise was based on, they would not have had one for decades. They would be fired at any other job. There should not be one power plant in our country using oil to make electricity. There should be a tax credit and time limit on every household that heats with oil to convert to electricity or something else. Why do we allow the cost of natural gas and propane to climb along with oil when we do have plenty of supplies? There are so many things broken in our country while the Congress and Senate do nothing that I wonder if there will be an America in 20 years.

BARRY.

Hardest hit are Idahoans who have to drive to work every day in order to pay their bills, provide for their families and pay their taxes, and I feel sorry for them. Not far behind are senior citizens trying to make ends meet. I worked 34 years with one company, for which I am paid a modest monthly pension. That pension has not changed since my retirement in 1980. And you know what has happened to the cost of living since then. "Skyrocketed" would be a close one-word definition. I am fortunate that I do not have to drive every day, but I do have to drive to the doctor's office, to the grocery store, to the pharmacy. I have cut out all pleasure travel to such favorites as Cascade, McCall and Sun Valley. Can no longer afford air travel. I now

pay three times what I once paid for gasoline, and that increase has to come from somewhere, right? It comes out of the grocery money, prescription drug costs, and living expenses, which are also on the rise.

I am sadly disappointed in our government for allowing the U.S. to become dependent on Middle Eastern countries for our most of our energy needs. Now we are at their mercy, and they are not big on mercy, as we have found out. Everybody saw this coming, but nobody did anything about it. Big food distributors could have and should have decentralized long ago. Instead of wasting money on ethanol, windmills, and finger-pointing, our government should have been busy solving its problems. It should have opened the way to real alternate energy sources (including nuclear). It should have allowed, even encouraged, more refineries. It should have allowed, even encouraged, the tapping of our vast oil reserves. (If the intent was to save it for a rainy day—that day is unquestionably here.) And it should have pursued ways of discouraging wasteful uses of energy.

I can remember the day when Japan copied our inventions. Now Japan has taken the lead in research and development. They are acting responsibly. They are on their way to mass producing a vehicle that will run (really!) on nothing but water. What ever happened to our Yankee ingenuity? Why did not Detroit think of this first?

WILLARD, Boise.

Because of rising energy costs, we have been driving less, biking more. We have started to implement changes to our business whereby we will use less fossil fuel overall. (My husband and I are artists who use a propane-fired furnace to produce our work.) We are marketing our artwork more locally instead of nationally because of high shipping costs. We are considering building a greenhouse to grow some of our own food and have joined a Community Supported Farm.

I do support diversifying our energy sources, especially wind, and solar and some hydropower. I also support programs that would encourage conservation and teach people about the real costs (war and pollution, to name a few) of our energy consumption. In addition, I would especially support any programs that include public transportation as a priority; yes, even in Idaho. We have public transportation over Teton Pass and in Jackson, Wyoming, and it is widely used and appreciated. There are also private shuttles that operate bringing people from southeast Idaho to the Salt Lake City airport. They are very reasonable and also widely used. I also support any legislation which can encourage the development and production of truly energy efficient vehicles, some kind of tax break for those who buy them for instance.

I do not support drilling for oil in some of our most pristine areas which support rare wildlife. Once these areas are destroyed or heavily impacted, they are gone forever. I do not trust that mining in these areas would be done in an environmentally conscious way. There is very little mining that is done consciously.

I think the overall emphasis needs to be using less, rather than finding more oil. It is, after all, a finite resource. We have essentially been living on borrowed time with regards to our consumption.

MARY, Driggs.

We seem to be worry about just the cost of gas, but it is going to affect everything we do, buy and consume. I am a single man and on a tight budget. I am aware of what things cost. I have even been seeing the cost of groceries starting to inch up. Eventually everything will go up in price and we in the US are